

2 JUL 1971

Laird Issues New Rules For Security at Rand

STAT

Defense Secretary Melvin Laird said today he has ordered strict new security regulations covering the Rand Corp., the Pentagon "think-tank" that employed Daniel Ellsberg.

Ellsberg has admitted to leaking top-secret Pentagon papers to several newspapers.

Laird said the new rules, which he ordered last night, would have a "far-reaching effect," but did not say how they would apply to other defense contractors.

Laird's comment came as he prepared to leave Andrews Airforce Base for a three-week trip to the Far East.

Pentagon sources said they had uncovered serious deficiencies in security procedures followed by Rand—which has been closely associated with the Air Force—and said classified documents in possession of the corporation now have been placed in custody of Air Force personnel.

Laird's decision was said to reflect deep concern over the unauthorized release of the doc-

uments by Ellsberg and a commitment to tighten security to prevent similar releases in the future.

Secretary of State William P. Rogers said yesterday the Supreme Court decision permitting newspapers to print the secret Pentagon papers "present a very difficult problem and we've got to find ways to solve it."

Insisting that he was not taking issue with the court's decision, Rogers said the government must find ways to preserve orderly procedures, safeguard the national interests, and maintain confidential relationships with foreign governments, the Associated Press reported.

Rogers called on the press to "recognize an obligation to refrain from the publication of information which would harm the security of the United States."

MORI/CDF